



April 20, 2012

Incumbents Return After Decisive Vote

Board of Education President Felton Williams and Vice President Jon Meyer kept their board seats last week, each beating opponents by wide margins.

Unofficial election-night results showed Williams, who represents District 2, defeating his sole opponent, Ricardo Linarez, by more than 23 percentage points. President Williams earned 1,794 votes, or 61.7 percent, with Linarez receiving 38.3 percent.

Vice President Meyer, who represents District 4, defeated sole opponent Naomi Rainey by nearly 50 percentage points. Meyer earned 4,554 votes, or 74.7 percent, while Rainey received 25.3 percent. Rainey had announced her withdrawal from the race, but her name still appeared on the ballot.

Meyer has served on the board since 2003, while Williams has served on the board since 2004.

Board OKS \$11.6 Million in Budget Savings

The Board of Education approved almost \$11.6 million in budget savings this week, including the elimination of nearly 70 certificated and classified jobs.

The 43.8 certificated jobs, including some counselors, assistant principals, teachers, psychologists, nurses and other positions, had already been listed for possible reduction in a resolution that the school board OK'd in February. Of the 24.9 classified jobs that were eliminated, some pertained to vacant positions, though 16 classified employees may be displaced from their jobs. Classified job cuts included positions in Business Services, Financial Services and Special Education. A full list of the reductions is available under Budget Update at lbschools.net.

This week's cuts came in addition to \$9.66 million in reductions approved by the

school board in February, bringing the total savings for 2012-13 to more than \$21 million. About \$3 million of the latest savings comes from enhanced revenue including \$1 million due to increasing student attendance rates, the result of incentive programs at schools.

California has experienced dramatic declines in revenue since fall 2007. The result has been continued cuts to public education funding.

Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed state budget would result in a funding decrease of nearly \$19 million for LBUSD under a rosy scenario that relies on voter approval of a tax initiative this fall. If the initiative fails, the school district would lose at least \$30 million annually. School districts are compelled to plan for best and worst-case scenarios, creating the potential for still further cuts ahead.

Lowell Wins Top Award from State PTA

Supported by a powerhouse PTA, Lowell Elementary School's outdoor Learning Garden has earned the top honor for student achievement from the California State PTA.

The garden and its accompanying outdoor classroom space won the state PTA's Spotlight Award. Only one award statewide is given in eight categories including leadership development, environment, family involvement, membership and outreach, collaboration, advocacy, student involvement and student achievement. Lowell won in the student achievement category.

"We're so honored that the garden has become such an asset for the school," said parent volunteer Karen Taylor, chair of the Lowell Learning Garden Committee. "We're thrilled. The teachers are saying yes, this is really

important, and the project has really blossomed."

Created through the collaboration of parents, community members and teachers, the garden has become integral to student achievement. The garden first consisted of three 3' x 8' raised garden beds, a California native plant garden and a monarch butterfly way station, all located around the school's perimeter. Over the past five years, the garden has expanded with additional raised garden beds, a dinosaur garden and a colonial kitchen garden.

Last year, a designated space was built for the Learning Garden's outdoor classroom featuring five additional raised garden beds, a semi-circle of benches, a teaching backdrop and table, and storage. The PTA donated about

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'EYE ON DESIGN'—Street banners installed on Retro Row, or Fourth Street between Cherry and Junipero avenues, were designed by artist Candice Gawne based upon artwork created by students at Burbank Elementary School. Gawne was artist-in-residence at Burbank as part of the Arts Council for Long Beach "Eye on Design" public art education program. Learn more and view additional banners at lbschools.net.

CAMS Earns State, Regional Honors

Students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science won high honors at two recent competitions.

The CAMS Chapter of Health Occupations Students of America attended the 2012 State Leadership Conference in Anaheim, where more than 2,000 students statewide competed in over 25 events such as persuasive speaking, extemporaneous writing and public service announcements. Twenty-two CAMS students finished in the top 10 of their competitive events. Thirteen students finished in the top three and will represent CAMS at the 2012 National HOSA Conference 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

HOSA is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Association for Career and Technical Education. The group's mission is to enhance the delivery of compassionate,

quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of health science technology students.

CAMS also won first place in the regional 2012 Raytheon Engineering competition, "Discovering Your Hidden Capacity." Three CAMS students worked together to create a code-deciphering device that earned the top prize.

CAMS is a high school run by the Long Beach Unified School District on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills. The school placed 22nd out of 21,000 public high schools nationwide in a U.S. News and World Report ranking of America's top high schools.

Last year, CAMS accepted its second National Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education, and the school has earned numerous other national honors.

Employee of Year Deadline Extended

The deadline for employees to nominate colleagues for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award has been extended one week until Friday, April 27.

Obtain criteria and nomination forms at work sites, the Personnel Commission office, or from lbschools.net. Completed forms may be faxed to 435-1018 or sent through school district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be delivered in person at 999 Atlantic Ave., Third Floor, Long Beach.

CalPERS Retirement

Two CalPERS retirement planning workshops for classified employees will be offered by the Personnel Commission on Thursday, May 17. Representatives from CalPERS, LBUSD Payroll and Risk Management will answer questions during the sessions, which run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Personnel Commission Office, 999 Atlantic Ave., Third Floor.

Contact the Personnel Commission at 435-5708 for more information, or find the registration form under Personnel Commission in the A-Z index at lbschools.net, then click on Classified Staff Development.

Dates to Remember

May	
	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
	National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
1	Law Day
1	Loyalty Day
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades k-4, ed.tv 8
1-7	National Physical Education Week
2	8:00, 10-15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 9 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
4	Horace Mann's Birthday
5	Cinco de Mayo
6-12	Teacher Appreciation Week
7-13	National Children's Book Week
8	National Teacher Day
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
9	California Day of the Teacher
9	National School Nurse Day
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation—A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
13	Mothers Day
16	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Memorial Day/Veterans' Day," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
19	Armed Forces Day
20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary
21-25	Public Schools Week
22	Open House—Middle Schools
23	Open House—High Schools
23	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 24 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 31 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
24	Open House—Elementary Schools
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday
28	Memorial Day
30	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Flag Day/Citizenship Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Marty Key	May 16	Ann Cole 434-3882
Cheryl Olson	May 18	Amy Clements- Feeman, ext. 8694

Credential Current?

All certificated employees are required to keep their credentials and permits current at all times. California does not allow a single minute of service without possessing a valid credential or permit. If employees allow credentials or permits to expire, or if they do not provide the state with evidence of meeting renewal requirements, they cannot remain in paid status in a California public school district.

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires all clear and professional credential holders to renew their credentials online. The online renewal process requires access to the Internet and payment by VISA or MasterCard. Go to <https://teachercred.ctc.ca.gov>. Click on Renew Credentials.

The \$60 renewal fee will increase to \$70 beginning July 1. The renewal process may be completed as early as one year in advance of the credential expiration date.

Questions about credentials may be directed to a credential services specialist at ext. 8071.

LBCC 'Pathways' to Assist Class of 2012

Class of 2012 high school graduates in the Long Beach Unified School District may apply to the new Long Beach City College Promise Pathways Program, which provides a number of benefits including a tuition-free first semester, guaranteed enrollment and specialized academic advice. Students can apply online until Saturday, May 5.

The new program, part of the Long Beach College Promise effort involving LBCC, LBUSD and Cal State Long Beach, aims to help community college students prepare to transfer to four-year universities sooner and complete certificates or degrees faster.

Learn more at www.lbcc.edu/outreach or 938-4267.

In Memoriam

Connie Nachbor
former teacher
April 4, 2012

Davia Hoskin
former teacher
April 11, 2012

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• Lowell Garden

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\$8,000 for that project and has allocated roughly \$1,500 to \$2,500 each year to develop and sustain the entire outdoor learning experience. During the school year, the raised garden beds contain a variety of produce, flowers and herbs in various stages of growth, providing students with ever-changing opportunities for learning.

The garden was created to provide students with hands-on learning related to school curriculum, healthy food choices and nutrition, responsible community participation and environmental stewardship. Lowell's teachers have coordinated with garden volunteers to create lesson plans for grades K-5 that support California's education standards and cover subjects including math, science, history, social studies, economics and ecology.

Kindergarteners, for instance, learn about an Iroquois gardening legend that evolved from the planting of corn, beans and squash. The kindergartners grow produce used in recipes that they prepare.

Third graders study biomes, or ecological communities characterized by distinctive plant and animal species. The students taste edible plant parts and hunt for plant adaptations that are unique to the region. Students also plant a community garden, create a "small business" to sell produce, and donate proceeds to charity.

Fifth graders use authentic colonial planting techniques to create a medicinal and culinary garden. They grasp the garden's importance to colonial life when they bind garden journals, taste herb teas and enjoy lavender muffins.

PTA members meet monthly to maintain and improve the garden as well as help students with lessons and activities.

The Spotlight Award will be presented to Lowell at the state PTA's annual convention on Friday, May 11 in Anaheim.

Taylor, the parent volunteer, welcomes the chance to share the successful project with other schools. For more information, contact Taylor at karenmtaylor100@hotmail.com.

Order Wrist Watches

It's time to order Long Beach Unified School District logo watches.

Order forms are available at all sites, or contact Cheryl Dennison at Cubberley School, ext. 4610 or cdennison@lbschools.net. Watches are available in two sizes and have a black band.

The deadline to order is Friday, April 27. Orders will be filled by the end of May by the Confidential and Supervising Secretaries Association.

Learn About Master's With Arts Emphasis

An information session on how to earn a Cal State Long Beach Master's Degree in Education on-site at a local school is scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 26 at Renaissance High School for the Arts in the art studio.

The next cohort of students for the master's degree with an emphasis on arts integration begins in fall 2012. Contact Xin Li at 985-1131 or Xin.Li@csulb.edu.